

Message Text

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ACTION OC-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CCO-00 SY-05 /022 W

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P 172115Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9267

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 0381

DEPT FOR OC/ARA, ARA/MGT AND SY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AMTC, ASEC, ANET, JM

SUBJECT: VOICE RADIO EQUIPMENT

REF: A. STATE 5629, B. 77 KINGSTON 6485, C. KINGSTON 77 A-101

1. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE FROM PERIODIC SECURITY ASSESSMENTS OFFERED BY THIS EMBASSY (MOST RECENTLY REFTEL B) CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS AND PROPERTY CONTINUE TO PLAGUE KINGSTON. THE DETERIORATING ECONOMIC SITUATION WOULD APPEAR TO ASSURE THAT THIS SITUATION WILL CONTINUE FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. INCIDENTS AFFECTING THE OFFICES OF THE MISSION, AND MISSION STAFF AND DEPENDENTS, HAVE BEEN KEPT TO A TOLERABLE LEVEL THROUGH A WIDE RANGE OF ESSENTIALLY COMMON SENSE SECURITY PRECAUTIONS. A PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF THOSE PRECAUTIONS IS RELIABLE COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN STAFF RESIDENCES AND THE MISSION, AND BETWEEN THE MISSION AND ITS VEHICLES-- AS WELL AS BETWEEN ALL THREE AND THE JAMAICAN SECURITY AUTHORITIES. TO DATE WE HAVE RELIED EXCLUSIVELY ON THE JAMAICAN TELEPHONE SYSTEM-- WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SIX OFFICIAL VEHICLES WITH MOBILE RAADIOS, AND SELECTED DEY STAFF ASSIGNED PORTABLE RADIOS.

2. THE FOREGOIN ARRANGEMENTS ARE NO LONGER SATISFACTORY OWING TO THE INCREASING FREQUENCY OF TELEPHONE
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SYSTEM FAILURES (E.G. THE TELEPHONES AT THE DCM'S RESIDENCE WERE OUT OF ORDER, DESPITE REPEATED REQUESTS FOR SERVICING, FOR MOST OF DECEMBER).

3. IN LIGHT DECREASING RELIABILITY TELEPHONE SYSTEM, AND OUR ASSESSMENT THAT THE SECURITY THREAT TO BOTH THE MISSION, AND MISSION STAFF AND DEPENDENTS, IS LIKELY

TO REMAIN AT LEAST AT EXISTING LEVELS, EMBASSY IS STRONGLY OF THE VIEW THAT THE SECURITY OF ALL ITS AMERICAN PERSONNEL WILL BE SIGNIFICANTLY ENHANCED IF RADIOS ARE INSTALLED IN ALL AMERICAN STAFF RESIDENCES AND IN ALL OFFICIAL VEHICLES. ALL RADIOS WOULD BE TIED INTO THE EMBASSY'S E&E NET-- THUS ALSO ENHANCING OUR E&E CAPABILITIES.

4. THE FOREGOING ACTION WAS ENDORSED BY THE FOREIGN SERVICE INSPECTION TEAM THAT VISITED KINGSTON IN NOVEMBER 1977, AND WAS RECOMMENDED BY THE REGIONAL SECURITY OFFICER IN HIS DECEMBER, 1977 EMBASSY SECURITY SURVEY REPORT (REF C).

5. THE US MISSION AT KINGSTON CONSISTS OF 7 USG AGENCIES WITH 79 AUTHORIZED AMERICAN POSITIONS AS FOLLOWS:

STATE --43

USAID --17 (PLUS 8 CONTRACT STAFF)

USIS--2

PEACE CORPS--2

HEW--1

DRUG ENFORCEMENT--3

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DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICE--1

STAFF INCREASES, POSSIBLY TOTALLING TEN, ARE ANTICIPATED THIS YEAR.

6. THE EMBASSY'S MOTOR POOL (A SOON TO BE JAO OPERATION) HAS 16 OFFICIAL VEHICLES. MT-76 GE MOBILE RADIOS ARE CURRENTLY INSTALLED IN 6 OFFICIAL VEHICLES; TEN HAVE NO RADIOS.

7. PORTABLE RADIOS ALREADY ASSIGNED TO THE EMBASSY ARE AS FOLLOWS:

HN-36 GE PORTABLE --17

PR-36 GE PORTABLE--9

PE-56 GE PORTABLE--4

PE-66 GE PORTABLE--6

MT-76 GE PORTABLE--6

8. HOMES FOR THE EMBASSY'S AMERICAN STAFF MEMBERS ARE SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE CITY. BECAUSE OF DISTANCE AND LOCATION FACTORS, ONLY THE MODEL HN-36S

HAVE PROVEN FELLIABLE. (PR-36, PE-56 AND PE-66
RADIOS DO NOT HAVE ADEQUATE RANGE TO CONTACT EMBASSY
FROM MAJORITY OF HOMES.) THE HN-36S ARE PRESENTLY
FOR MOST PART ASSIGNED TO KEY PERSONNEL. ALL ARE
OLD AND FREQUENTLY INOPERATIVE AND SHOULD BE
REPLACED.

9. FOR EACH AMERICAN STAFF MEMBER TO PARTICIPATE
IN THE EMBASSY'S EMERGENCY RADIO NET, THE POST
REQUESTS THE FOLLOWING RADIO EQUIPMENT ON AN URGENT
BASIS:

- A. 89 HN-56 PORTA-MOBILE II (WITH SEL-CALL)
 - B. 89 AR-2 RESIDENCE-TYPE ANTENNAE
 - C. 89 CHARGER CORDS FOR HN-56 MODELS
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- D. 89 ALL-PURPOSE TIMERS
- E. 10 MT-76 GE MOBILE RADIOS

10. FOREGOING WILL PROVIDE TEN EXTRA RESIDENTIAL
RADIO UNITS FOR USE AS EMERGENCY SPARES IN THE
SHORT-TERM, AND TO COVER STAFF INCREASES IN THE
LONG-TERM.
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